

Administration of Jimmy Carter, 1980

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to make the transition to other employ-  
ment. As a result, the reorganization of  
Rock Island lines, so vital to Midwestern  
shippers, should be facilitated.

Finally, the act authorizes expansion  
and revision of the existing financing pro-  
gram which provides funds to help our  
Nation's railroads. It is my expectation  
that these Federal funds be directed to  
the maximum extent possible at rail re-  
structuring projects, and the Secretary of  
Transportation has assured me that he  
will give the highest priority to using the  
funds provided in that manner.

All Americans will benefit from the  
Staggers Rail Act of 1980.

NOTE: As enacted, S. 1946 is Public Law 96-  
448, approved October 14.

### Hostage Relief Act of 1980

Statement on Signing H.R. 7085 Into Law.  
October 14, 1980

The tragic circumstances which make  
the Hostage Relief Act of 1980 so neces-  
sary have occurred all too often in recent  
years. In particular, the holding of 52  
Americans in Tehran has made this legis-  
lation urgent.

I am pleased that speedy and thought-  
ful action on the part of both Houses of  
Congress has brought to my desk a bill  
which will go a long way toward alleviat-  
ing some of the burdens faced by the  
families of those held hostage and will en-  
sure that adequate medical treatment will  
be provided to hostages and to their loved  
ones when they return.

All those held captive in Iran and  
others in similar situations since Novem-  
ber 4, 1979, irrespective of whether they  
are in the Armed Forces or are civilian

Government employees, will receive the  
education and health benefits provided  
for in this bill. Additionally, all of the  
hostages will be excused from Federal  
taxes for the period of time spent in cap-  
tivity.

With the enactment of this legislation,  
we take a small but extremely important  
step toward providing a measure of com-  
pensation for the severe hardships hos-  
tages and their families endure. I am ex-  
tremely pleased to sign this bill into law.

NOTE: As enacted, H.R. 7085 is Public Law  
96-449, approved October 14.

### Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1981

Statement on Signing S. 2597 Into Law.  
October 14, 1980

It is with pleasure that I sign into law  
the Intelligence Authorization Act for  
Fiscal Year 1981. This legislation author-  
izes the appropriation of funds for our  
Intelligence Community. It is essential  
that I and those who aid me in the for-  
mulation of our Nation's foreign policy  
make our decisions on the basis of accu-  
rate information about the capabilities  
and intentions of other countries and of  
forces that shape world events. I am  
pleased that the Congress has followed my  
recommendation and authorized suffi-  
cient funds to ensure that we continue  
to have the best intelligence service possi-  
ble.

I am also pleased to note that this leg-  
islation contains authority for the pay-  
ment of a death gratuity to the surviving  
dependents of intelligence personnel  
killed overseas as a result of hostile or  
terrorist activities or in connection with

an intelligence activity having a sul-  
tial element of risk. I pray that, in t  
ture, situations will not arise that  
necessitate use of this provision. It  
portant, however, that our intelliger  
ficers overseas, who daily sacrifice  
comforts of home to serve their c  
under sometimes difficult and dan  
circumstances, know that we as a  
stand behind them and will prov  
the welfare of their families should t  
strike.

In addition to providing fund  
strong intelligence service, S. 25  
contains legislation that modifies  
called Hughes-Ryan amendment  
tablishes, for the first time in st  
comprehensive system for Congr  
oversight of intelligence activiti  
legislation, which will help to ens  
U.S. intelligence activities are car  
effectively and in a manner that  
individual rights and liberties, wa  
portant part of the comprehensiv  
gence charter on which this ad  
tion and the Congress have wo  
over 2 years. Unfortunately, the  
other legislative matters prever  
sage of the charter thus far in th

The oversight legislation t  
passed does not seek to alter the  
authorities and responsibilities  
executive and legislative bran  
rather codifies the current pra  
relationship that has develop  
this administration and the S  
House intelligence committees  
past 3 years. This intent is evi  
the language of the bill itself ar  
islative history that stands behi

It is noteworthy that in cap  
current practice and relatio  
legislation preserves an impor  
ure of flexibility for the Preside  
executive branch. It does so i